

development and investment projects in Gwinnett County include names and places all metro Atlantans know such as Discover Mills and The Villages at Global Forum. He also served as a member of the Atlanta Regional Commission, which is the regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency for much of the metro Atlanta area.

Another area he conquered in more recent years that is also essential for a thriving community is higher education. It has also become a particular passion and point of pride for Wayne in the form of Georgia Gwinnett College, which he helped to make a reality. In 1994, Gwinnett County was the largest county east of the Mississippi without a 4-year college. So Wayne and a group of leaders in Gwinnett County purchased 160 acres of land in Lawrenceville, GA, and designated it specifically for the development of a college campus. Georgia Gwinnett College opened its doors in 2006 as the first 4-year college founded in Georgia in more than 100 years, and the first 4-year, public college created in the U.S. in the 21st century. In less than 10 years, Georgia Gwinnett College's enrollment is approaching 11,000 students and Wayne still serves on the college foundation's board.

Wayne Mason is the foundation upon which Gwinnett County's success is based. So I want to wish happy birthday to a great Georgian and friend.●

RECOGNIZING ELLEN GOLDEN AND DR. BARBARA WOODLEE

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to honor two remarkable women, Ellen Golden and Dr. Barbara Woodlee, who are new inductees to the Maine Women's Hall of Fame. Like all members of this prestigious group, Ellen and Barbara have had a tremendous impact on the lives of family and friends in their communities and on women throughout the State of Maine. Indeed, to be considered for the Maine Women's Hall of Fame, nominees' achievements must have had significant statewide impact, must have improved the lives of women in Maine, and must have made contributions with enduring value for women. I am pleased to say that Ellen and Barbara have not only met these criteria, they have far exceeded them.

Ellen Golden, from Woolwich, ME, is the senior vice president and founder of the Women's Business Center at Coastal Enterprises, Inc., CEI. She has played a leading role in supporting women business owners and microenterprise growth through research, policy, and program development. She has also been at the forefront of expanding small business opportunities for minorities and immigrants in Maine. Ellen's efforts through CEI and a number of other boards and civic organizations have provided financial and career possibilities that would otherwise have been unavailable to many Mainers. Ellen's work truly embodies the spirit of American opportunity.

Dr. Barbara Woodlee, from Vassalboro, ME, was the president of Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield, ME for nearly 30 years. A trailblazer in her field, she served as the first woman president within the Maine Community College System. Throughout her presidency, Barbara strove to increase educational opportunities for Maine women by developing programs, particularly in the health care field, that met the needs of the many women who used the college to launch their careers. Her efforts to open up opportunities for women to access higher education, and the well-paying jobs that come with it, are commendable. But it is not just women at the college who have benefited from her work; thanks to her, Maine community college students pay the lowest in-state tuition and fees in all of New England. She kept costs low while facing difficult budget challenges—a task with which we here in Congress can sympathize.

Congratulations to both Ellen and Barbara for their induction into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame. With this well-deserved honor, they join the likes of Senator Margaret Chase Smith, who in 1950 courageously stood here, on the Senate floor, to denounce McCarthyism. I thank Ellen and Barbara for all that they have done for Maine women and for our State as a whole. Maine is fortunate to have such tireless advocates promoting education and fighting for economic opportunity.●

CONGRATULATING THE WELLS RESERVE AND LAUDHOLM TRUST

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve and Laudholm Trust on the completion of the final stage of their solar energy project. On March 20, 2015, they will officially finish the project and be 100 percent energy self-sufficient. They are the first nonprofit organization in Maine to reach this milestone.

The solar array project represents only the most recent environmental conservation landmark on the Wells Reserve. In fact, the land on which the Wells Reserve sits has been a key link between the community and the environment for not just decades but centuries. It was settled for farming in 1643 and was the largest saltwater farm in York County at one time, shipping its products to Boston weekly. By 1978, the farm was derelict, but devoted community members decided to join together to revitalize it. Laudholm Trust was soon born from that initiative. Officially established in 1982, the Laudholm Trust has been a vital supporter of stewardship, research, and education efforts surrounding Maine's coastal communities, enabling the success of the Wells Reserve. Due in part to the Trust's efforts, the 2,250 acres of farmland were designated a National Estuarine Research Reserve in 1984.

The solar array project is an outstanding example of what can be accomplished when stakeholders at all levels work together. The \$200,000 in funding to purchase the solar panels was made possible by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, NOAA, the Mattina R. Proctor Foundation, the Davis Conservation Foundation, the Town of Wells, Efficiency Maine, and, of course, Wells Reserve and Laudholm members. A Maine company, Revision Energy of Portland, ME, installed the array. Through the hard work of this community, the project was completed a full two years ahead of schedule. For such a significant project to be finished years ahead of schedule proves the dedication of the organizations and individuals involved with completing this venture.

The local initiative and collaboration demonstrated on the Wells Reserve for this project represents the very best of Maine community moxie. On the occasion of the completion of the Wells Reserve and Laudholm Trust solar array, I extend my congratulations to the two leading organizations and all those involved in making the project possible.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-926. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-927. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Strategic and Critical Materials 2015 Report on Stockpile Requirements"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-928. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2015-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11,